

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, 17 and 18 remain in this application.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16 have been canceled.

In response to the Office Action of February 28, 2006, Applicant requests re-examination and reconsideration of this application for patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 132.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 4 and 5 stand objected to because it is unclear if the enclosure or the entire kiosk is portable or stationary. The amendments to claims 4 and 5 clarify this by stating that the kiosk is portable or stationary.

Claim 6 stands objected for the use of "therethrough." Claim 6 has been amended to recite "there through."

Claims 14-17 stand objected to for the use of language, in method claims, wherein the kiosk is "provided with" additional structural elements. The claims have been amended as suggested by the examiner to overcome this objection.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claims 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second

paragraph. In claim 13 "the financial transaction" has insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 13 has been amended to recite "a financial transaction" to provide proper antecedent basis.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Segrest (US 2003/0191662). The examiner alleges that with respect to Claim 13 Segrest discloses a method for mailing back items at a security checkpoint (See abstract, and Figure 3) comprising the steps of:

- a. Providing a kiosk adjacent to a security checkpoint, the kiosk equipped with devices facilitating shipment of the items mail station, 20);
- b. Using the devices to relate the item with the passenger (Steps 316 and 318);
- c. Using the devices to identify the destination of the item (Step 320 and 328);
- d. Completing a financial transaction for shipping the item (Step 314);
- e. Preparing the item for shipment (Step 326);
- f. Placing the item in the kiosk (Step 330);
- g. Removing the items from the kiosk and facilitating delivery to the destination (Step 332).

With respect to Claim 18: The method further comprises the steps of:

- h. Providing a security checkpoint manned by security personnel, the security checkpoint having machines to search for prohibited items (300, the examiner considers this to be a security checkpoint, due to the fact that the passenger's baggage is checked, and the passenger is not permitted to proceed until the passenger as well as baggage is searched, see Paragraph 0037);
- i. Detecting at least one prohibited item (Step 306);
- j. Security personnel taking possession of the item (See Paragraph 0034);
- k. Manning kiosk with personnel (See Paragraph 0035);
- l. Security personnel delivering prohibited item to kiosk personnel (See Paragraph 0035);
- m. Kiosk personnel taking possession of prohibited item for shipment (See Paragraph 0035).

Claim 13 has been amended to include using a camera to visually record the prohibited items and the passenger.

Segrest does not disclose the use of a camera to record any events or things. Therefore Segrest fails to teach or disclose claim 13, as amended, and dependent claim 18. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 13 and 18 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, and 3-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liphard (US 2003/0226883), in view of Gil et al. (US 2002/0007281).

The examiner alleges that with respect to Claim 1: Liphard discloses the use of a kiosk (1) for use in association with a security checkpoint permitting deposit of prohibited items for shipment to a desired location (See abstract). The kiosk comprising an enclosure adapted to store packaging materials (Reference numeral 11) and labels providing instructions for shipment (Reference numeral 13); Liphard discloses the enclosure having a countertop (Reference numeral 4).

Liphard discloses a place for container depository (reference numeral 17) for the passage of items into the enclosure, however fails to disclose the depository being a tamper proof door hinged in said countertop and adapted to permit one-way passage of items into the enclosure. Gil discloses the use of a mailing machine with an automatic door (Paragraph 0072). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Liphard, to include the secure door of Gil, in order to provide increased security for items being mailed (See Gil, Pages 6 and 7).

The combination of Liphard and Gil, discloses the outer door,

but discloses the door is on rollers with pulleys and guides (See Paragraph 0072), and fails to expressly disclose the door is hinged to the counter top. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the door hinged as opposed to on rollers, because Applicant has not discloses that hinging the door provides an advantage, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with either the door hinged or on the rollers/pulley system taught by Gil, because both create a secure door that prevents unauthorized users from accessing mail items. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Liphard and Gil, to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 1.

With respect to Claim 3: Liphard also fails to disclose the enclosure includes a microphone connected to an audible recording device. Gil discloses the use of a microphone, in which a voice recognition system for receiving user input (Paragraph 0061), and discloses that the inputs are stored and can be retrieved (See Paragraph 0093), therefore it is the examiner's position that the input is stored, therefore the audible message is stored. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Liphard,

to include the microphone, with the voice recognition input, in order to provide the ability of system or respond to a user's spoken command (See Gil Page 4).

With respect to Claim 4: the enclosure is portable (Liphard discloses the system being in the form of a credenza, and does not disclose it is connected or inserted into a wall, therefore the examiner considers this to be portable, Paragraph 0017).

With respect to Claim 5: the enclosure is stationary (Liphard discloses the invention can be housed in a wall, therefore the examiner considers this to be stationary, Paragraph 0017).

With respect to Claim 6: the enclosure is connected to a shaft, adapted to pass items for shipment there through (see Figure 2c).

With respect to Claim 7: Gill discloses the tamper proof door is connected to a payment device, where operation of the payment device, releases the tamper proof door (See Paragraph 0071 and 0072).

With respect to Claims 8-10: Gil discloses the enclosure includes a safety depository, having reinforced walls, the counter top is reinforced and the tamper proof door accesses the interior of the safety depository (Reference 410, Figure 2b).

Claim 1 has been amended to include a camera mounted to

provide a view of the counter top, connected to a device to make a visual recording of the prohibited items and instructions for shipment, the enclosure also including a microphone connected to a recording device which makes a permanent recording of the instructions for shipment.

Neither Liphard or Gill et al. alone or in combination disclose a kisok provided with a camera and a microphone as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, Liphard in view of Gill et al. fail to teach or disclose the limitations of amended claim 1 and dependent claims 4-8 and 10.

Also, applicant challenges the examiner's statement that it would have been a matter of design choice to have a hinged door as opposed to the door being on rollers because applicant has not disclosed that hinging the door provides an advantage or solves a stated problem. The burden is not on the applicant to submit this proof. The burden is on the examiner to show that hinged doors are equivalent to and function the same as doors on rollers. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 be withdrawn.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segrest (US 2003/0191662) in view of Liphard (US 2003/0226883).

The examiner alleges that with respect to Claim 14: Segrest,

as disclosed above for Claim 13, discloses the use of a method for mailing items back to a passenger, however fails to specifically disclose the specifics of the mailing center (20). Liphard discloses the use of a kiosk used at a security check point, which comprises:

- n. A counter top (4);
- o. A security depository (17);
- p. Providing the counter top with a tamper proof door opening into the depository (See Paragraphs 0025 and 0026).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Segrest, to include the enclosure of Liphard, in order to provide a easy to use secure depository in a pre-screening area, so that a passenger does not have to leave personal items behind on their travels (See Liphard, Page 1).

Claim 13, from which claim 14 depends, has been amended to include using a camera to visually record the prohibited items and the passenger. Neither Segrest or Liphard alone or in combination disclose the use of a camera to record prohibited items and associate them with a passenger or person. Therefore the combination of Segrest in view of Liphard fails to teach or disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segrest (US 2003/0191662) in view of Gil et al. (US 2002/0007281).

The examiner alleges that with respect to Claim 15: Segrest discloses the use of a mailing system used with a security check point, but is silent as to the features of the mailing station. Gil discloses the use of a mailing center kiosk (100) comprising:

- q. A counter top (See Figure 1 a, the examiner considers the top of the kiosk to be a counter top);
- r. A keyboard (See Paragraph 0061);
- s. Where a user inputs instructions to said computer by the keyboard facilitating shipment of the items (See Paragraph 0061).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Segrest to have the mail station be the kiosk of Gil, in order to provide an automated mail processing system which dispenses postage and securely stores items for mailing (See Gil, abstract and Page 3)

With respect to Claim 17: Segrest fails to disclose the enclosure includes a microphone connected to an audible recording device. Gil discloses the use of a microphone, in which a voice recognition system for receiving user input (Paragraph 0061), and discloses that the inputs are stored and can be retrieved (See Paragraph 0093), therefore it is the examiner's position that the

input is stored, therefore the audible message is stored. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Segrest, to include the microphone, with the voice recognition input, in order to provide the ability of system or respond to a user's spoken command (See Gil Page 4).

Claim 13, from which claims 15 and 17 depend, has been amended to include using a camera to visually record the prohibited items and the passenger. Neither Segrest or Gil et al. alone or in combination disclose the use of a camera to record prohibited items and associate them with a passenger or person. Therefore the combination of Segrest in view of Gil et al. fails to teach or disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 115 and 17 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liphard (US 2003/0226883) and Gil et al. (US 2002/0007281) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hansen (US 2002/0156645).

The examiner alleges that Liphard and Gil disclose an mailing enclosure for mailing items at a security checkpoint, however fails to disclose the use of a camera, to provide a view

of the counter top, and connected to a visual recording device. Hansen, discloses the use of a locker system, which can accept packages, with comprises a camera (15) coupled to recorders, which capture and record images (See Paragraph 0035). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the enclosure of Liphard and Gil, with a camera and recording device, of Hansen, in order to determine if, or verify that an article has been placed into the kiosk. (See Hansen, Page 3).

With respect to Claim 11: Liphard discloses the use of the combination of a security check point (paragraphs 0003-0005) and a kiosk for mailing items not permitted to pass through the security check point (Paragraph 0008 and 0013).

Liphard discloses the use of a kiosk (1) for use in association with a security checkpoint permitting deposit of prohibited items for shipment to a desired location (See abstract). The kiosk comprising an enclosure adapted to store packaging materials (Reference numeral 11) and labels providing instructions for shipment (Reference numeral 13); Liphard discloses the enclosure having a countertop (Reference numeral 4).

Liphard discloses a place for container depository (reference numeral 17) for the passage of items into the enclosure, however fails to disclose the depository being a tamper

proof door hinged in said countertop and adapted to permit one-way passage of items into the enclosure. Gil discloses the use of a mailing machine with an automatic door (Paragraph 0072). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Liphard, to include the secure door of Gil, in order to provide increased security for items being mailed (See Gil, Pages 6 and 7).

The combination of Liphard and Gil, discloses the outer door, but discloses the door is on rollers with pulleys and guides (See Paragraph 0072), and fails to expressly disclose the door is hinged to the counter top. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the door hinged as opposed to on rollers, because Applicant has not discloses that hinging the door provides an advantage, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with either the door hinged or on the rollers/pulley system taught by Gil, because both create a secure door that prevents unauthorized users from accessing mail items. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Liphard and Gil, to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 1.

Liphard also fails to disclose the enclosure includes a

microphone connected to an audible recording device. Gil discloses the use of a microphone, in which a voice recognition system for receiving user input (Paragraph 0061), and discloses that the inputs are stored and can be retrieved (See Paragraph 0093), therefore it is the examiner's position that the input is stored, therefore the audible message is stored. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Liphard, to include the microphone, with the voice recognition input, in order to provide the ability of system or respond to a user's spoken command (See Gil Page 4).

While Liphard and Gil do not explicitly disclose that security checkpoint comprises an X-ray scanner, Official notice is taken that X-ray scanners used at security check points are old and well known. X-ray scanners have been used in airports for the scanning of baggage to see inside a passengers personal items, without having to open up the items/bags. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide an X-ray machine at the security check point of Liphard, in order to provide a quick non-invasive way to examine passengers' belongings.

Liphard and Gil disclose an mailing enclosure for mailing items at a security checkpoint, however fails to disclose the use of a camera, to provide a view of the counter top, and

connected to a visual recording device. Hansen, discloses the use of a locker system, which can accept packages, with comprises a camera (15) coupled to recorders, which capture and record images (See Paragraph 0035). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the enclosure of Liphard and Gil, with a camera and recording device, of Hansen, in order to determine if, or verify that an article has been placed into the kiosk. (See Hansen, Page 3).

With respect to Claim 12: Gil discloses the enclosure includes a safety depository, having reinforced walls, the counter top is reinforced and the tamper proof door accesses the interior of the safety depository (Reference 410, Figure 2b).

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 11 has been amended to include a camera operatively connected to a visual recording device and making a permanent record of the prohibited items and instructions for shipping the items. Also the kiosk is equipped with a microphone operatively connected to a audible recording device to make a permanent record of the instructions for shipping. Neither Lipard or Gill et al. disclose the use of a camera at a shipping kiosk. The examiner states that Hansen teaches the use of a camera to record that a package has been

placed in a locker. However, Hansen fails to teach or disclose that the camera also records the instructions for shipping the item. Therefore the combination of Lipard in view of Gill et al. and further in view of Hansen fail to teach the claimed invention. Claim 12 depends on claim 11 and the rejection of claim 12 is deficient for the same reasons as the rejection of claim 11.

The examiner takes Official notice that X-ray scanners used at security checkpoints are old and well known. If this is true then the examiner is requested to submit evidence to support this statement as required by section 2144.03 MPEP. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 11 and 12 be withdrawn.

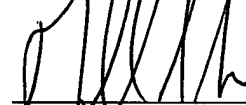
Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segrest (US 2003/0191662) as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Hansen (US 2002/0156645).

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

SUMMARY

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendment to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner will now find the claims of the application allowable. Favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 5/25/06

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